Sofia Vergara

Government

Current Event

23 August 2012

—. "Mayor: ‘Absolutely Prepared To Call Off’ GOP Convention If Isaac Threatens Tampa." 22 Aug 2012. CBS Tampa. 22 Aug 2012 <http://tampa.cbslocal.com/2012/08/22/mayor-absolutely-prepared-to-call-off-gop-convention-if-isaac-threatens-tampa/>.

This article informs readers about a tropical storm which is approaching the Caribbean and may hit Florida next week during the time the Republican National Convention is scheduled in Tampa. Officials are concerned and may cancel the convention if they feel it is necessary.

**Background information:** The general election is held the first Tuesday of November. The Democrat convention is scheduled for September 3-6 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

**My thoughts/questions:** What will the Republicans do if the convention has to be cancelled? Will they hold it later in Tampa or perhaps hold a virtual convention? Will the loss of news media coverage affect the outcome of the election if the convention is not held?

**Historical Significance:** The Republican National Convention is a meeting of all the Republican delegates from around the nation. They hash out the final Republican Party platform and officially nominate candidates for president and vice president. The president and vice president will be chosen by the electoral college after the November election.

Penelope Cruz

16 August 2011

Current Event

Associated Press. "SpaceX to fly to Int'l Space Station in November." Houston Chronicle 15 Aug 2011.

This article informs readers about a privately owned space ship which will fly to the International Space Station in November 2011. This will be a first and is a result of NASA discontinuing the shuttle program. The ship, called Dragon capsule, will first orbit the station and will dock on a following mission. The company behind the Dragon capsule is SpaceX. I think this is encouraging news since at this time we have to depend on the Russians to ferry astronauts and cargo to the ISS.

**Background information:** The Dragon is a reusable space capsule which is launched on a rocket and is designed to splash down in the ocean upon reentry to earth. SpaceX’s contract with NASA is $1.6 billion for a minimum of 12 missions. SpaceX was established in 2002 by Elon Musk, the founder of PayPal, to provide for more reliable space transport at a lower cost than NASA has offered. [www.spacex.com](http://www.spacex.com).

**Historical Significiance:** NASA, a government agency, has been responsible for space exploration in the past. Now the government is privatizing some space activity. Space X plans to send missions to the International Space Station since the Space Shuttle has been retired.